

**MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
UTILITY DIVISION
AGENDA NO. 99-5-3
AMENDED**

Date Prepared: April 29, 1999
For Work Week Commencing: May 3, 1999
Business Meeting: May 3, 1999, 10:00 a.m.

General Introduction This agenda is the Commission's Utility Division agenda for the work week designated. In the later part of each week (generally, Thursday by 2:00 p.m.) prior to the work week to which an agenda pertains, the agenda is posted on the public information bulletin board at the Commission offices, deposited in the mail directed to all persons who have properly requested notice by mail, emailed to all persons who have properly requested notice by email, and posted to the Public Service Commission's worldwide web site located at <http://www.psc.state.mt.us>.

Place of Meetings All meetings are held at the Commission offices, 1701 Prospect Avenue, Helena, Montana, unless otherwise noted.

Inquiries General inquiries concerning this Utility Division agenda and subscribing to notice by mail may be made to Dennis Crawford at (406) 444-6182 or Dan Elliott at (406) 444-6187. They may refer inquiries to another person within the agency.

Accommodation for Persons with Disabilities Anyone needing an accommodation for physical, hearing, or sight impairment in order to attend a scheduled meeting should contact the Commission secretary at (406) 444-6199 sufficiently prior to the meeting to allow accommodations to be made.

Work Sessions All items identified below are for Commission discussion or action on the day designated (Dan).

1. D99.3.73 – Summit Group – Discuss request for waiver of Master Meter Rule (5/4/99)
2. D99.4.83 – Gordon-Prill-Drapes – Discuss request for waiver of Master Meter Rule (5/4/99)
3. D99.4.104 – Energy Engineering Inc. – Discuss request for waiver of Master Meter Rule (5/4/99)
4. D97.7.90 – MPC USBC – Discuss/Act on Motion for Reconsideration and MPC Administration proposal (5/4/99)
5. L98.10.5-RUL – Consumer information & protection rules for restructured gas and electric industry – Consider and act on draft Notice of Adoption (5/4/99)
6. D98.5.104 – Mountain Water Final Order/Stipulated Rate Settlement – Review and Act on Order 6069c, other items as necessary (5/4/99)

7. D99.2.53 – Shelby Gas Association, Inc. Interim Order – Review and act on Interim Order, other matters as necessary (5/4/99)
8. 94.11.52 – Environmental Surcharge – Energy West/Great Falls Gas – Discussion – heads up as to present status of audit (5/4/99)
9. D99.3.63, 99.3.65, 99.3.66, 99.3.67 – MDU/coop electric service area agreement – Discuss and act on service area agreements (5/4/99)
10. D99.4.111 – Ronan Telephone Co. v. Blackfoot Telephone Co. – Discussion of Petition of Ronan Telephone Co (5/4/99)
11. D99.4.107-109 – To discuss various CLEC intraLATA equal access filings – To inform Commissioners about pending CLEC intraLATA equal access filings and seek Commission direction (5/4/99)
12. D99.2.26 – Small companies v. USWC – Discussion and action on USWC motion to discuss and other small companies intervention (5/4/99)
13. D97.7.116 – PSC v. USWC measured service information – Discussion, direction, action on drafts for amending complaint and obtaining plan from USWC (5/4/99)
14. D99.3.52 – Ronan/Hot Springs v. USWC termination of intraLATA toll – Further discussion of matter, direction, action as necessary (5/4/99)
15. D99.3.62 – Mid-Rivers petition for EAS (Billings) – Discussion, direction, action as necessary on petition for EAS (5/4/99)
16. D99.4.96 – Alberton and Superior petition for EAS (Missoula) – Discussion, direction, action as necessary on petition for EAS, preliminary matters (5/4/99)
17. D99.4.89 – Customer Carpets v. USWC – Discuss receipt of USWC's Answer to Complaint (5/4/99)
18. D99.2.37 – Connect/USWC Interconnection Agreement – To approve the agreement (5/4/99)
19. USWC v. PSC (and NARUC) – For the Commission to decide if it wants to hire a consultant or use staff as an expert witness in this case (5/4/99)

Weekly Scheduling Meeting – Will be held at 9:45 a.m. on the day of the Business Meeting

Action Items All items identified below are for action at the Commission business meeting.

1. BLACK HILLS POWER & LIGHT Docket D99.3.69 (Eric)

On March 22, 1999, BHP&L filed a Quarterly Fuel Rate Rider application. A Notice of Opportunity for Public Hearing was issued on March 25, 1999. Requests for hearing were due by April 26, 1999. No requests have been received. This application will decrease rates by \$8,293 over the base cost of fuel approved in Docket No. 83.4.25. A default order has been drafted.

2. TEL-SAVE, INC. v. U S WEST COMM – Docket D98.6.143 (Robin)

On April 13, 1999, Tel-Save, Inc. filed a Motion to Withdraw its complaint against U S West Communications. Staff recommends approval of the motion to withdraw and closure of the docket .

3. US WEST COMMUNICATIONS – Docket N99.4.91 (Vicki)

On April 8, 1999, US West Communications filed tariff pages introducing a service charge of \$.26 on those US West carried non-coin calls that originate from payphones and are alternately billed. The filing reduces the price of payphone originated 1-8-4USWEST calls from \$.30 to \$.26.

4. MCI TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORP – Docket N99.4.92 (Vicki)

On April 9, 1999, MCI filed tariff pages to grandfather Option N (500 Personal Number Service).

Notice Items All items identified below are noticed for public participation purposes. Unless otherwise stated in the text of the notice, the items will be action items on the next following agenda or a subsequent agenda and participation may be

had by submitting written comments to the Public Service Commission, 1701 Prospect Avenue, P.O. Box 202601, Helena, Montana, 59620-2601, within 5 calendar days following publication of this agenda.

1. MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO – Docket D99.4.101 (Martin)

On April 19, 1999, MDU filed to amend its Gas Extension Policy Rate 120 to add an incremental Expansion Surcharge option. The option would be applicable to natural gas line extensions when costs resulting from MDU's existing extension policy might discourage customer participation. The option would apply in MDU's discretion, would apply in instances where 10 or more customers participate, and would require, per participating customer, a \$100.00 initial charge, a \$5.00 per month charge, and a per dk charge designed to provide recovery of the contribution required within a 5-year period (\$1.50 per dk for costs expected to be recovered within a 5-year period and a greater amount per dk for costs not expected to be recovered within a 5-year period). The surcharge would remain in effect and apply to all customers connecting to service in the expansion area until the contribution requirement is satisfied. MDU also proposes certain Rate 120 references to specific tax rates be deleted so that amendments need not be filed each time a tax rate changes.

2. U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS – Docket N99.4.98 (Tina)

On April 16, 1999, USWC filed Tariff Transmittal 99-AC02. The purpose of this filing is to introduce the FastPIC option and to eliminate the charge to carriers for unauthorized PIC changes.

3. US WEST Communications N99.4.99 (Bonnie)

On April 16, 1999, US WEST filed Tariff Transmittal 99-AC03 to revise the maintenance of service charges and structure and to grandfather Multiple Point of Termination Sectorization (MPTS). Service charges per half-hour will be assessed whether a premises visit is made or not when the testing indicates that the service problem is not in the equipment or systems provided by USWC. The filing also grandfathers MPTS which is an optional feature for traffic routing through an access tandem from multiple customer points of termination. Only two Montana customers subscribe to MPTS.

4. RSL COM U.S.A., Inc. & One Step Billing, Inc. - Docket N99.4.95 (Leroy)

On March 5, 1999, RSL COM U.S.A., Inc. and One Step Billing, Inc. filed a notice to the Commission that RSL COM U.S.A., Inc. has acquired the subscriber base of One Step Billing, Inc. by RSL COM U.S.A., Inc., effective October 1, 1998. One Step Billing, Inc. ceased operations December 8, 1998.

5. ZENEX Long Distance & Prestige Investments - Docket N99.4.94 (Leroy)

On April 7, 1999, ZENEX Long Distance and Prestige Investments, Inc. filed a notice to the Commission of the intention to sell all of the issued and outstanding stock of ZENEX Long Distance to Prestige Investments,

6. U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS N99.4.100 (Wendy)

On April 19, 1999, U S West Communications, Inc. filed Tariff Transmittal 99-24, "Do Business From Anywhere Promotion." The promotion offers waivers and bill credits to new and existing customers, including waivers of nonrecurring charges for various call forwarding and caller ID CLASS services, and a one-time \$10 credit for subscribers to Volume Calling Connection Plan. In addition, the promotion offers non-utility incentives such as a free Plantronics Wireless headset and a free Call Waiting Caller ID Box. The promotion will run from May 17, 1999 through June 25, 1999.

7. U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS - Docket N99.4.97 (Nina)

On April 16, 1999, U S West Communications filed Tariff Transmittal 99-25, to remove "976 Information Delivery Service and 960 Network Access Service," from tariff.

8. US WEST COMMUNICATIONS - Docket N99.4.100 (Kate)

On April 16, 1999, US West filed for approval of its proposed "Do Business From Anywhere" promotion to run from May 17 through June 25, 1999. Under the promotion, US West will waive the non-recurring charges for customers who subscribe to various call forwarding features, call waiting, caller ID, and business voice messaging. Customers who subscribe to the volume calling connection plan will get a one-time credit of \$10. Wireless headsets will be given to customers who subscribe to an additional Centrex 21 analog line or an additional flat business line or an

additional ISDN line or who begin or upgrade business packages. Caller ID boxes will be given to customers subscribing to Smart Set/Smart Set Plus or Call Manager Connection.

9. AT&T - Docket N99.4.103 (Kate)

On April 19, 1999, AT&T filed for approval of its proposed "PR \$750 Bill Credit" promotion to begin May 4. The promotion provides bill credits to AT&T Digital Link customers when they subscribe to certain other AT&T business services. Customers will receive a \$750 bill credit payable in the fourth month's bill following enrollment. Participating customers must request an installation date of no later than July 31, 1999.

Information Items All items identified below are for information only.

Tentative Action Items for Agenda 99-5-10

N99.4.99 USWC (Bonnie)
 N99.4.97 USWC (Nina)
 N99.4.100 USWC (Kate)
 N99.4.103 AT&T (Kate)

New Filings Received in Past Week

N99.4.94 – Telecom Professionals – Notification of stock purchase
 N99.4.95 – RSLCOM – Acquisition of assets
 D99.4.96 – Alberton Residents – Complaint v. Clark Fork re: local dialing
 N99.4.97 – USWC – Tariff 99-25 remove 976 & 960 service
 N99.4.98 – USWC – Tariff 99-AC02 Intro FastPIC & eliminate unauth charges
 N99.4.99 – USWC – Tariff 99-AC03 revision of MPTS
 N99.4.100 – USWC – Tariff 99-24 "Do business from anywhere promo"
 D99.4.101 – MDU – Gas extension policy rate expansion surcharge
 N99.4.102 – UtiliCorp Energy Mgt – Application for electricity supplier license
 N99.4.103 – AT&T – Tariff 99-07 Promo Digital Link PR \$750 Bill Credit
 D99.4.104 – PSC – Energy Engineering request waiver for master meter
 N99.4.105 – Global Crossing Ltd – App for transfer from Frontier to Global
 D99.4.106 – Energy West – Application for summary closure
 D99.4.107 – AT&T – For approval of digital link service dialing parity plan
 D99.4.108 – CenturyTel – App for implementation of dialing parity
 D99.4.109 – WinStar Wireless of MT – IntraLATA Dialing Parity Plan

N99.4.110 – Advanced TelCom Group – Concern re: sale of exchanges/USWC

D99.4.111 – Ronan Telephone – Petition for Suspension of '96 Telecom Act re:
interconnection

D99.4.112 – Blackfoot Telephone – Arbitration / Ronan

D99.4.113 – Montana Wireless – Arbitration / Ronan